

Subject: [Fwd: Mountain Biking in BC]

Date: Wed, 09 Feb 2005 14:29:55 -0800

From: Brian Platts <bplatts@shaw.ca>

To: Corrie Kost <kost@triumf.ca>

Subject: Mountain Biking in BC

Date: Wed, 09 Feb 2005 09:48:16 -0800

From: Coley Gentzel <cgentzel@aai.cc>

To: cam@nsmb.com, fonvca@fonvca.org, jcuthbert@dnv.org, rwalton@dnv.org, anixon@dnv.org, lmuri@dnv.org, mmckeonholmes@dnv.org, ecrist@dnv.org, jharris@dnv.org, editor@nsnews.com, Gerbil F'er <doug@graniteprecast.com>, kaz* <cruzinbullit@hotmail.com>

Greetings members of the Media, City Council members and Mr. Mayor, and others.

I just recently learned of Councillor Ernie Crist's (and others) stance of opposition towards mountain biking on certain parts of the North Shore of Vancouver, specifically Mt. Fromme. I wanted to take a brief moment to speak up in support of the sport of mountain biking, the existing locations for it in and around Vancouver, and the continued financial and moral backing for these things by the local community and government.

Mount Fromme and the North Shore of Vancouver are one of a kind destinations for bike enthusiasts across the world. These locations and their riders are quite literally responsible for most major revolutions and advancements within mountain biking, and your city is legendary in the biking community. Bikers speak of the North Shore with quiet reverence and hushed tones of excitement, knowing that the trails, riders, and terrain found there are unparalleled in other parts of the country, continent, and probably world.

I don't live in your fair city but I visit often, specifically for the purpose riding bikes on the North Shore. I am one of hundreds of riders from my area (Bellingham, WA) who frequent the area and I know of countless more from other parts of this state (and others) who make day, weekend, and even extended trips across the border just to ride. The North Shore offers something unique that can be found very few other places. A combination of easy access to a lot of vertical terrain (Seymour, Fromme, etc), ground conditions that are very suitable for bike riding, and most importantly riders with the skill and motivation to craft the most incredible trails most bikers have ever seen. If efforts are increased to limit the expansion of this sport, much less to remove existing areas and terrain, you will be making a grave mistake that can only hurt your local community, economy, and the very soul of what makes Vancouver so special to thousands of recreation enthusiasts.

I have seen estimates for the revenue generated as a result of biking in your area and I have no trouble believing them. Biking is an expensive sport and it's rare that I make a trip to your neck of the woods without spending at least a hundred, often times more, of my own countries dollars on bike parts, gas, groceries, food and drinks post-ride, and many other things. Without places like Mt. Fromme, I and many others like me will have to look elsewhere for places to pursue our outdoor passions and spend our money in the process.

Opposition to mountain biking is no new thing, in fact we encounter it on a daily basis here in the states. This is one of the main reasons the draw of the North Shore has always been so strong. No other community that I have seen embraces the sport with such open arms and has worked so hard to encourage development and expansion. Visiting Vancouver has always been, and I hope continues to be, a special and unique experience. I hope these places and these experiences can be preserved so that those who don't yet know of the magic to be found in the woods of North Vancouver might one day have the chance to find it for themselves.

Thank you for your time.

Coley
cgentzel@aai.cc
360-927-2538